

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Advent 4: Sacred People
11:00 am Sanctuary Service

Lector: Ted Bingham
"Sacred People"

Prelude: *Carol of the Bells*

Ukrainian Carol

Welcome: Ted Bingham

Territorial Acknowledgements: Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Announcements

Please join us after the service in the Doreene McLeod Room for hot mulled cider and goodies. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Hymn: VU55 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (1,2) Rosetti/Holst

Call to Worship

The Advent Wreath

Take one more deep breath [*pause*] and open your eyes slowly. For those worshipping online, you are invited to light the four candles of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

Family Member:

Please repeat after me [us]:

We pray for Peace this day.

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all people.

We open to see our deepest selves
as a gift of holy presence.

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

lighting the way to Love.
lighting the way to Love.

All three blue candles and the pink candle are lit

**Upon this moment,
 upon this people,
 upon this place,
 the holy comes.
 And sacred knowing
 brings sacred being
 for sacred doing of God's plan.**

Prayer of the Advent Wreath

Family Member:

Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Peace,
 we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.
 As we take in the love you offer,
 may we be a reflection of your light,
 expanding the sacred knowing of "you are here for me"
 into the sacred knowing of "you are present for all of us."
Amen.

Final Verse of *Hope is a Star*: VU 8 (vs 4)

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart
 Jesus has come and will never depart
 When God is a child there is joy in our song.
 The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
 and none shall be afraid.*

Brian Wren/ J. C. Fogg

Refracting the Sacred

As light passes through a medium, it can be redirected in ways that make its brilliance more visible, as in a prism. As we encounter the message today, we see the world and our own lives and loved ones in a different light, one that invites us to know more deeply the sacred nature of all things.

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture: First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-16 (NRSVUE)*/**Second Reading** *Matthew 1: 18-25 (NRSVUE)* Ted

This is part of our story
Thanks be to God

Anthem: *People, Look East*

J. Leavitt

Reflection: Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Reframing the Sacred

We too often think of that something "sacred" is far away and not available to us. This Advent season, we have "reframed" the way we recognize the sacred reflected all around and through us. As we prepare to move into the world, we begin to reframe our view of the world and our circumstances, illuminating new ways of being the Christ (Anointed One), tangibly present.

Hymn: VU38 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (1,2) French trad.

Invitation to the Offering

Refilling the Sacred

Prayers of the People: Ted

Doxology: VU 55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise [one], I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

Words of Offering

Hymn: MV158 *Dream A Dream* (1,2,3,4) Murray/Klusmeier

Benediction

When you see lights twinkle,
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence
is pouring more peace into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.
This means you are already
reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Peace.

Amen.

Postlude: *Lo! God Comes* Wesley/Trad. Melody